3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 AlbaniaEG1

The Republic of Albania

ON Christmas evening of 1924, Ahmed Bey Zogu won over the considerate and intelligent elements of the population. He re-entered Tirana and was greeted by the whole town with shouts of cheer and gratitude and was hailed as the leader who would direct Albania into a peaceful and prosperous future. As soon as harmony and tranquility had been restored, the young leader called upon the Albanians for the election of a Constitutional Assembly, which body declared Albania a republic in January, 1925, and the Albanians showed unwavering loyalty by electing, on January 31, 1925, Ahmed Bey Zogu as their first president.

The new president studied the needs, requirements and the psychology of his people. He was determined to make Albania into a peaceful and united nation, and, through his obvious efforts, he won the support and admiration of the strongest and sturdiest clans of Albania. These clans, which had never paid taxes to the Sultans of Turkey, now began to

3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1

pay taxes to the new government. As a further sign of their loyalty, they laid down their arms, returned to their homes and their farms, thoroughly convinced that the new president will safeguard the interests of the nation.

Through his highly developed penchant for law and order, President Ahmed Bey Zogu won the cooperation of the Beys of Albania. Until this time the Beys of Albania were too proud to unite under another Bey as their chief. They had engaged in petty quarrels and waged war against each other like the Barons of mediaeval England. The firm hand of Ahmed Bey Zogu tended towards forming them into a national union, and they accepted Ahmed Bey Zogu as their chief and president.

In reaching these ends, Ahmed Bey Zogu proved himself a magnet rather than an autocrat or tyrant. In his way he has given ample evidence to his people that his chief aim in life, and his only objective is to put Albania on an equal rank with other civilized nations.

3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1

class of small peasants proprietors. The stability of the country has been further promoted by the pacification of the outlying districts. 423

During the more recent years of the reign of King Zog, his actions and work have all tended toward the true pacification and reconciliation of divided interests, to internal union and prosperity, and to the political and social progress of Albania. 663

The work accomplished for Albania by King Zog can be outlined briefly as follows: a highway construction program; new roads built; new modern bridges constructed throughout the country; new government and public buildings erected in Tirana and other cities; better housing; greater trade relationship; increased exports and imports; general development of the country and of some of the mineral resources; establishment and stabilization of the Albanian currency; hospitals and clinics built in the various cities; codification and improving changes of the laws; the assurance of absolute safety and security throughout the country by organizing the militia and the gendarmerie, thereby giving to Albania for the first time a permanent mili-

ALBANIA YESTERDAY AND TODAY

• 663 tary and police force; reforms in the government service; improvement of the ports; modernization and improvement of agriculture and similar industries for increase of home production; in the educational field much has been done by the building of a large number of new schools, libraries and placing education under government subsidy and supervision; introduced the Boy Scouts organization making membership compulsory between the ages of 12 and 18, this was done for the upbuilding of health and character of the Albanian youth, and numerous other improvements were made by King Zog.

In foreign policies, King Zog is for peace and true friendship equally with all nations.

Free from all those prejudices which separate society and create dissension, tolerant to men of other beliefs, fair and impartial to men of other races, he so obviously succeeded in welding all the conflicting elements of his country into a strong and prosperous whole.

000 It is evident that the golden opportunity for Albania has arrived. Under the able guidance of King Zog I, Albania is being restored to all of those things which were hers from the days of antiquity. It must be realized